

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR. 4 April 1955

SUBJECT

Pushkin's Influence in East Berlin

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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1. On 12 January 1955, it was learned that ~~Pushkin's stand~~ against a further tightening of controls along the boundaries of West Berlin in order not to increase political tensions. The Soviet ambassador had been informed that the GDR population resented the handling of controls by the officials employed for this purpose and demanded an immediate halt to all abuses. Pushkin's stand in this affair is taken as an indication that the Soviets do not want to commit themselves to a definite line of action in Berlin for the time being.
2. It is mainly attributed to an intervention by Pushkin that the East Berlin city administration has retained West Berliners employed in East Berlin in their previous positions as had been demanded by various shop trade union managements. Most conspicuous was Pushkin's intervention when Melsheimer was reelected chief prosecutor of the GDR. On this occasion, Melsheimer, in agreement with the SED Central Committee, wanted to make a statement against West Berlin agents and provocateurs and the West Berlin Government. He was, however, ordered by Pushkin not to make any statements of such a nature. This order reached him via Hilda Benjamin shortly before the opening of the Volkskammer session, so that he had no time to prepare a substitute statement.

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CLASSIFICATION

S-E-C-R-E-T

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1. On 12 January 1955, it was learned that Pushkin was against a further tightening of controls along the boundaries of West Berlin in order not to increase political tensions. The Soviet ambassador had been informed that the GDR population resented the handling of controls by the officials employed for this purpose and demanded an immediate halt to all abuses. Pushkin's stand in this affair was taken as an indication that the Soviets do not want to commit themselves to a definite line of action in Berlin for the time being.
2. It is mainly attributed to an intervention by Pushkin that the East Berlin city administration has retained West Berliners employed in East Berlin in their previous positions as had been demanded by various shop trade union managements. Most conspicuous was Pushkin's intervention when Hellsheimer was reelected chief prosecutor of the GDR. On this occasion, Hellsheimer, in agreement with the SED Central Committee, wanted to make a statement against West Berlin agents and provocateurs and the West Berlin Government. He was, however, ordered by Pushkin not to make any statements of such a nature. This order reached him via Hilde Benjamin shortly before the opening of the Volkskammer session, so that he had no time to prepare a substitute statement.

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